

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 EUR-12 AGR-05 IO-10 /109 W

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P R 272016Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8620

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID BB

SUBJ: CDB: CANADIAN/IDB ACTIVITIES

1. CDB ANNOUNCED MARCH 26 THAT GOC WILL PUT US DOLS 6.1 MILLION INTO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND TO REPLENISH CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL FUND AND TO LAUNCH A PROGRAM OF DIRECT LENDING BY CDB TO SMALL NON-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVES IN AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY. ACTIVITIES OF BOTH OF ABOVE PROJECTS ARE DIRECTED TO LESS DEVELOPED ISLANDS. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER AND CDB PRESIDENT WILLIAM DEMAS, NOTING IMPORTANCE OF WORLD FOOD PROBLEM, SAID THAT CANADIAN FUNDS ARE TO BE USED PRINCIPALLY TO BENEFIT SMALL FARMER IN VARIETY OF WAYS.

2. CANADIAN LOAN BRINGS TOTAL CANADIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CDB TO ABOUT US DOLS 25.5 MILLION (INCLUDING DOLS 6.6 MILLION IN PAID-IN CALLABLE CAPITAL). CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION STATES THAT AGRICULTURAL FUND IS ALMOST FREE OF RESTRICTIONS AND GENERALLY OPERATES

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BY LENDING FROM CDB TO APPROPRIATE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH

IN TURN LEND TO FARMERS OR COOPERATIVES.

3. IDB TEAM HAS BEEN HERE THIS WEEK CONFERRING WITH CDB RE POSSIBLE LOAN IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF US DOLS 17 MILLION. IN CONVERSATION IDB TEAM LEADER REUBEN STERNFELD, EXECUTIVE VP OF IDB, RESPONDED TO GENERAL QUESTION ABOUT CDB BY DISCLOSING THAT PREVIOUS IDB REPORT DESCRIBED BANK AS BEING WEAK IN PERSONNEL WITH ONE MAJOR PROBLEM BEING FACT THAT UNDP PEOPLE HAVE MANY PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND DO NOT SEEM TO IDB TO BE SERIOUSLY TRAINING REPLACEMENTS. IDB REPORT (WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM MRS. BEATRICE HARRETCHÉ, CHIEF OF DIVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE) ALSO EXPRESSES VIEW THAT CDB IS OPERATING ON TOO BROAD A FRONT AND WOULD DO BETTER TO CONCENTRATE RESOURCES AND ENERGY IN A FEW SPECIFIC SECTORS. REPORT ALSO STATES THAT CDB LACKS EXPERTISE IN PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION.

4. COMMENT: IDB AGREES WITH PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS THAT BANK IS UNDERSTAFFED IN MANY RESPECTS. IDB COMMENT RE UNDP STAFF IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. ONLY THREE OUT OF SEVEN UNDP-FUNDED STAFFERS ARE NON-WEST INDIANS AND MOST OF THESE PEOPLE (E.G. DR. LEWIS CAMPBELL, DR. KURLEIGH KING) ARE SO HIGHLY TRAINED AND QUALIFIED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND A TRUE "REPLACEMENT" FOR THEM ANYWHERE IN REGION. IDB WAS LESS SPECIFIC WITH REGARD TO CONCENTRATING FOCUS OF CDB ACTIVITIES. PRESUMABLY IT REFERS TO LARGE INFRA-STRUCTURE PROJECTS WHICH DEMAS HAS SAID BANK WILL NOT BE UNDER-TAKING IN FUTURE. IF COPY OF IDB REPORT IS AVAILABLE IT MAY PROVIDE VALUABLE DATA FOR FUTURE ASSESSMENTS BY AID AND EMBASSY.

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Message Attributes

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